

Commandment #2
“True Worship”



Vows (From Last Week)

Do you, _____, take the Lord God Almighty to be the sovereign ruler of your life?

Do you promise that regardless of the cultural elevation of self, you will wholeheartedly love the Lord your God alone?

Will you forsake all other gods?

Will you stay obedient to His laws and exclusively worship God and Him alone – for as long as you shall live? What is your answer?

What’s the Difference Between the First Two Commandments?

“You must not have any other god but me. You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods.” (Exodus 20:3-5a)

i·dol /ˈɪd(ə)l/
noun

1. an object of extreme devotion
(when we make something too big)
2. a representation or symbol of an object of worship
(when we make God too small)

What Do These Verses Tell Us About God’s Character?

“I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.” (Exodus 20:5b-6) ¹

The Commandment Broken

When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. "Come on," they said, "make us some gods who can lead us. We don't know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt." So Aaron said, "Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters, and bring them to me." All the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, "O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!" Aaron saw how excited the people were, so he built an altar in front of the calf. Then he announced, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the LORD!" (Exodus 32:1-5)²

How Do We Know We've Made an Idol?

- God has become too small when we have religion instead of relationship.
 - (ex: God reduced to church attendance)
- Other things have become too big when our focus and decision-making are compromised.
 - (ex: self, our kids, others in general, money, sports, politics, job, school, appearance, food, phone, entertainment, etc.)

How Do We Get Rid of Our Idols?

- Let God be God. Seek a full and personal relationship with the One who loves you and has your ultimate best in mind.
- When God reveals to you something or someone that is competing with Him, **treat it with the utmost seriousness.**

¹ Compare with Ezekiel 18, especially Ezekiel 18:20-23 ² To see the lead-up, read Exodus 19:3-20:24 & 24:3-7